

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Petra Perner  
Serial No: 10/599,644  
International Filing Date: 8/16/2004  
Title: Methods for Acquiring Shapes from HEp-2 Cell Sections and  
the Case-Based Recognition of HEp-2 Cells

**Commissioner for Patents**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the first office action, please amend the instant application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please substitute the attached amended paragraphs of pages 1, 2 and 6-10 for the corresponding paragraphs of the literal translation filed concurrently.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 through !9 of the concurrently filed literal translation are cancelled.  
Please add the attached new claims 20 to 46 to the specification.